

## Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project  
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Sheila Pomeroy

DATE: April 27, 2001

RE: Time in Seclusion at the Vermont State Hospital

Two weeks ago we distributed a brief report on the number of Vermont State Hospital patients who were secluded during 1991 through 2000 (overall, by gender, and by age). This is one of the indicators of mental health system performance required by the Sixteen State Performance Indicator Project. In response to a request from one reader, this week's PIP examines the amount of time spent in seclusion during this time period (overall, by gender, and by age). In response to a request from another reader, one potential explanation for the difference in rates of seclusion for male and female patients is offered for discussion.

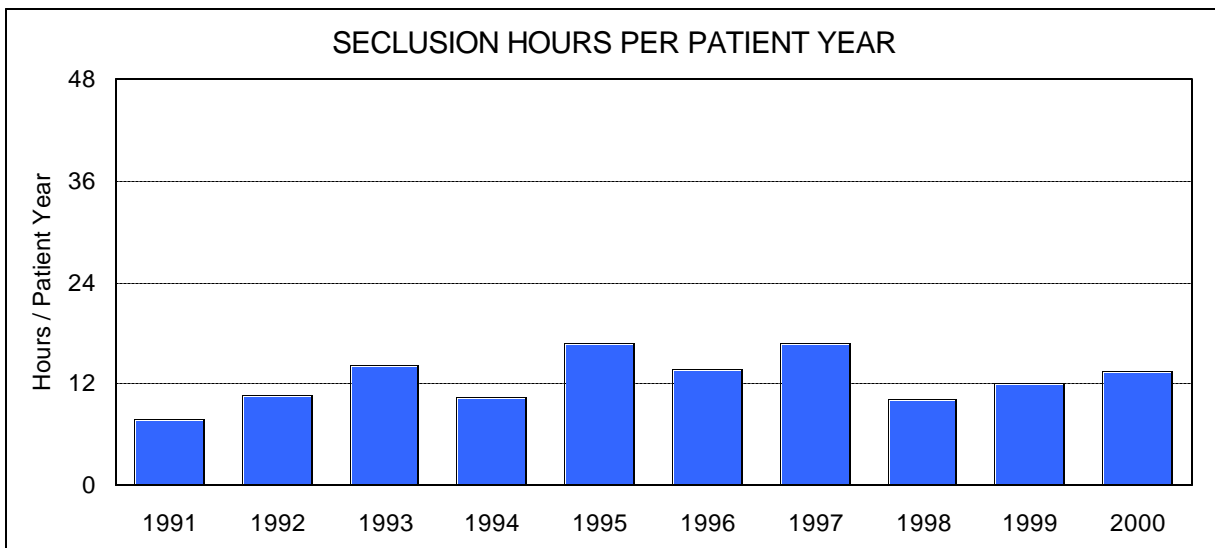
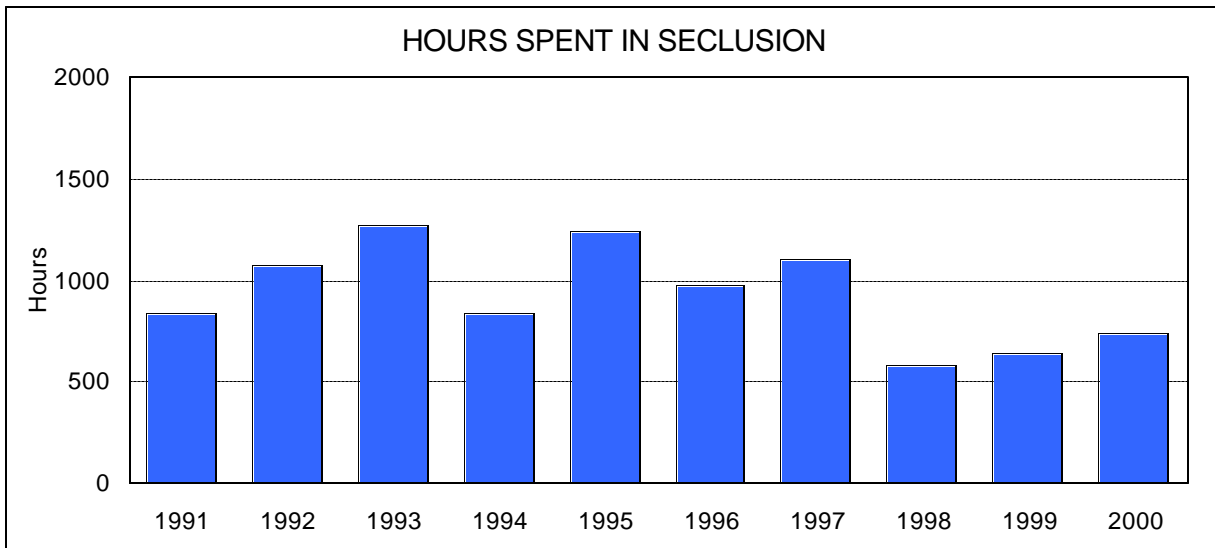
As you will see, the amount of time spent in seclusion (hours per patient year) ranged from less than 8 hours in 1991 to more than 16 hours in 1995 and 1997. Time spent in seclusion during the past two years was between 12 and 14 hours per patient year. The difference between the genders that was noted earlier (higher rates of seclusion for women than for men) is also evident here. Female patients spend substantially more time in seclusion than male patients in every year under examination. As in the previous report, the differences between younger and older patients were inconsistent and less substantial.

In response to our earlier report on this topic, one reader noted, "... that women were more likely to be placed in seclusion than men." and asked if we had "...any thoughts why?" Being empirical researchers, we observed that men are much more likely to be sent to the State Hospital than women (2.5 times as many men as women were in VSH during 2000) even though women are much more likely to have a serious mental illness (women are 2.2 times as likely as men to have a serious mental illness according to estimates published in the Federal Register). This may mean that all but the most disturbed women are being diverted from the State Hospital to less restrictive alternatives. If women are more likely to be diverted from VSH, the women in the state hospital may be more severely disturbed than the men. If the women in VSH are more disturbed, then difference in the level of severity of men and women in the State Hospital may account for the difference in seclusion rates.

We look forward to your thoughts about the observed differences in rates of seclusion for men and women at the Vermont State Hospital. As always, you can reach us at 802-241-2638 or [jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us](mailto:jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us).

# VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL

## DURATION OF TIME IN SECLUSION: FY 1991 - FY 2000

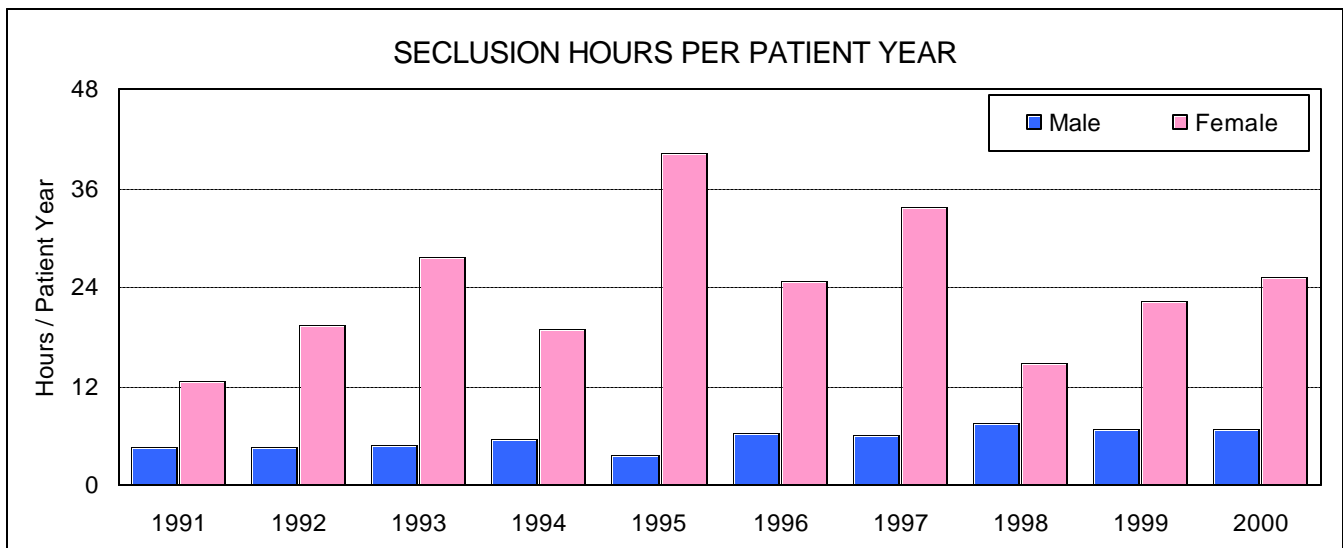
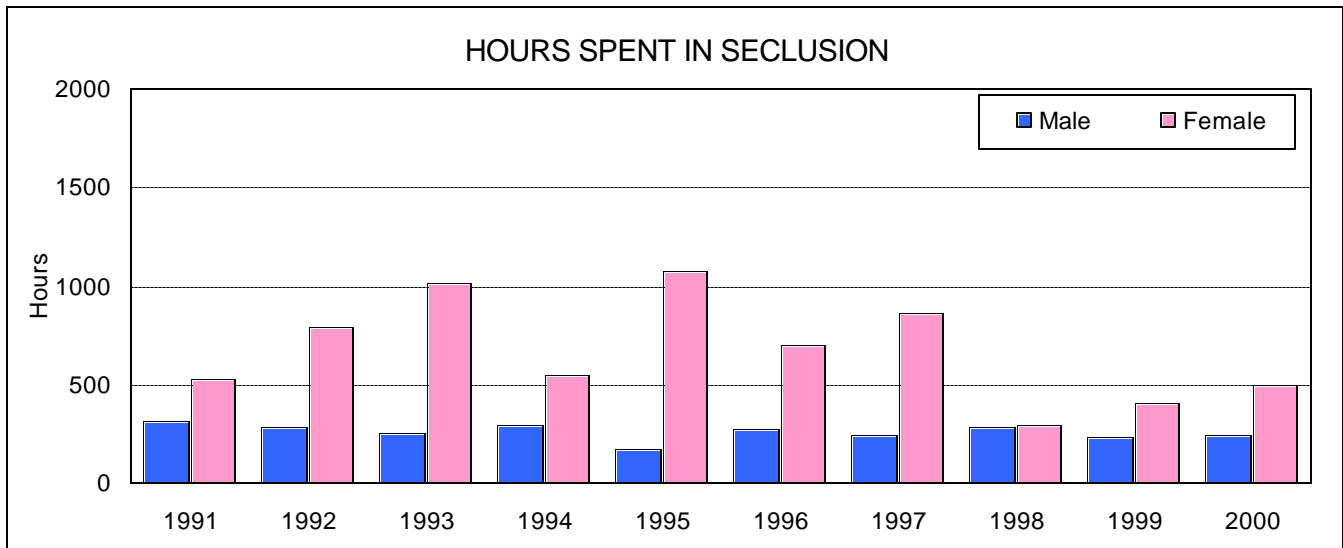


FY	Total Patient Years	Hours in Seclusion	Hours Per Patient Year
2000	55.0	737.9	13.4
1999	52.7	639.3	12.1
1998	57.4	577.5	10.1
1997	66.2	1,105.7	16.7
1996	71.4	974.9	13.7
1995	73.7	1,244.8	16.9
1994	81.5	839.3	10.3
1993	89.3	1,266.9	14.2
1992	101.7	1,072.2	10.5
1991	107.8	835.9	7.8

Bases on analysis of Vermont State Hospital Data Bases. A patient year is equivalent to 365 days in residence at the Vermont State Hospital.

# VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL

## Duration of Time in Seclusion for Males and Females: FY 1991 - FY 2000

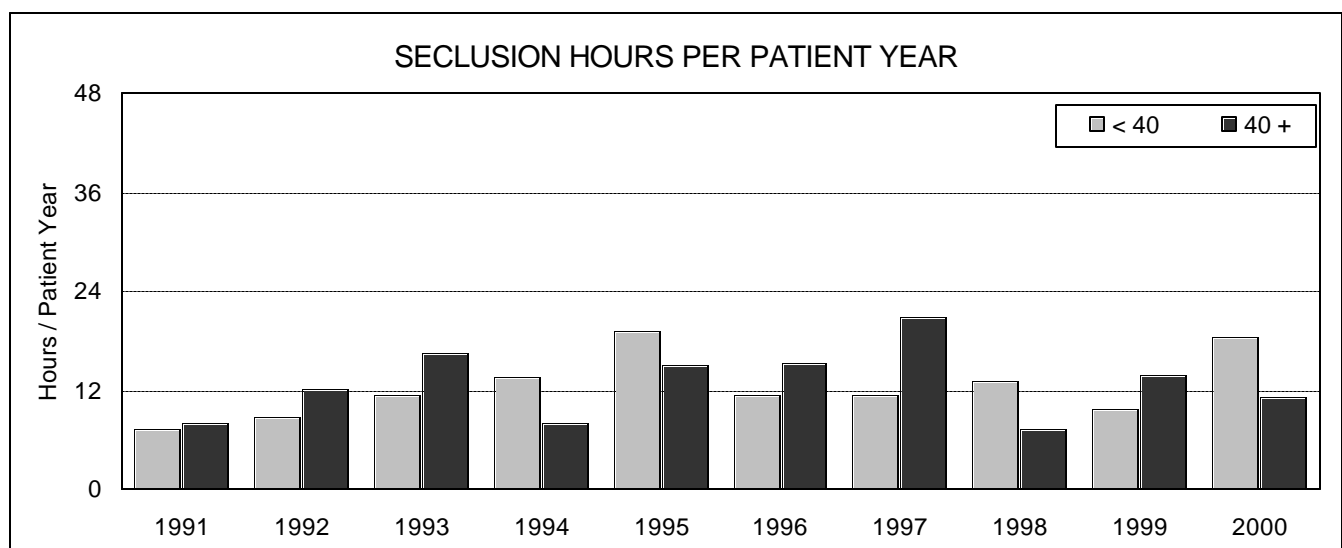
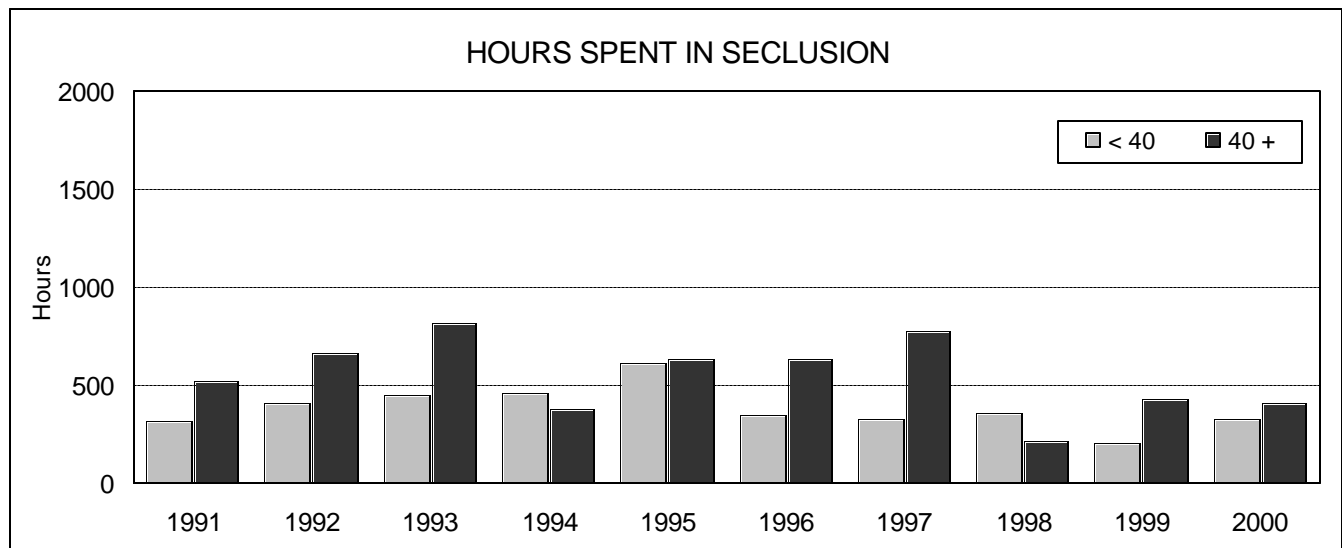


FY	Males			Females		
	Patient Years	Secluded		Patient Years	Secluded	
		Hours	Hrs/Patient Year		Hours	Hrs/Patient Year
2000	35.3	239.6	6.8	19.7	498.3	25.3
1999	34.3	230.0	6.7	18.4	409.3	22.2
1998	37.4	280.3	7.5	20.0	297.2	14.9
1997	40.7	245.2	6.0	25.5	860.5	33.8
1996	43.0	272.6	6.3	28.4	702.3	24.8
1995	47.0	169.9	3.6	26.7	1,074.9	40.3
1994	52.5	291.2	5.5	28.9	548.1	18.9
1993	52.6	250.8	4.8	36.7	1,016.1	27.7
1992	61.2	283.1	4.6	40.6	789.0	19.5
1991	66.4	309.8	4.7	41.5	526.1	12.7

Bases on analysis of Vermont State Hospital Data Bases. A patient year is equivalent to 365 days in residence at the Vermont State Hospital.

# VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL

## Duration of Time in Seclusion for Patients Under 40 and 40 Years and Older: FY 1991 - FY 2000



FY	Less than 40			40 and Older		
	Patient Years	Secluded		Patient Years	Secluded	
		Hours	Hrs/Patient Year		Hours	Hrs/Patient Year
2000	17.6	325.8	18.5	37.3	412.2	11.0
1999	21.2	207.3	9.8	31.5	432.0	13.7
1998	27.8	361.2	13.0	29.6	216.3	7.3
1997	28.7	326.9	11.4	37.5	778.9	20.8
1996	30.4	344.9	11.3	41.0	630.0	15.4
1995	32.1	614.9	19.1	41.6	629.9	15.1
1994	34.1	459.2	13.5	47.4	380.0	8.0
1993	39.3	446.6	11.4	50.0	820.4	16.4
1992	47.0	409.6	8.7	54.8	662.6	12.1
1991	42.4	312.6	7.4	65.4	523.3	8.0

Based on analysis of Vermont State Hospital Data Bases. A patient year is equivalent to 365 days in residence at the Vermont State Hospital.